

# Press Release



John Hoeven, Governor  
Douglass A. Prchal, Director

1600 East Century Avenue, Suite 3  
Bismarck, ND 58503-0649

Phone 701-328-5357

Fax 701-328-5363

E-mail [parkrec@state.nd.us](mailto:parkrec@state.nd.us)  
[www.NDparks.com](http://www.NDparks.com)

For Immediate Release, May 13, 2005

For more information, contact Donna Schouweiler, 328-5358

## ***State Parks Offer Full Camping Services May 20***

North Dakota State Parks begin offering full camping services on Friday, May 20. While most parks are open year-round, Victoria Day weekend, a major Canadian holiday, is when full camping services, including electrical hookups, water and modern comfort stations, are available.

All major state parks will have full services available to campers through the end of September. After that date, parks begin draining water lines in the campgrounds in preparation for colder weather, but may continue to have electrical hookups available during the late fall and winter, depending upon weather conditions and demand. The department's web site, [www.ndparks.com](http://www.ndparks.com), contains updated schedules and information on upcoming park programs.

State park visitors will see some new park features. At Lewis and Clark State Park near Williston, the season will start with an operational low water boat ramp, something visitors to that park have not had for several years. However, boaters are reminded that ramp usability there is marginal and recommended for shallow-drafted boats 16 feet and under only. Park personnel report that boats will not be able to go more than one to two miles in either direction of the ramp, and should use extreme caution to avoid grounding.

Both Ft. Stevenson State Park, Garrison, and Lake Sakakawea State Park near Pick City, will have operational boat ramps available. Ft. Stevenson's ramp has been widened and extended to a bottom elevation of 1,797 ft. msl. This ramp was temporarily closed May 12 due to soft conditions, but is expected to reopen within a few days.

The main ramp at Lake Sakakawea State Park has a bottom elevation of 1,800 ft. msl and will be usable at least through mid-summer. A new low water ramp with a bottom elevation of 1,795 ft. msl will be constructed at that park on Fishing Point and will be functional if lake elevations fall lower than expected levels.

-back-

*Play in our backyard!*

A new ramp is under construction at Indian Hills State Recreation Area and is expected to be completed in late May.

The road to Grahams Island State Park on Devils Lake is expected to be open throughout the summer. Visitors, however, may experience some traffic delays due to road construction this summer. Information on access to parks on Lake Sakakawea and Devils Lake is updated regularly on the department's web site, [www.ndparks.com](http://www.ndparks.com).

- ✓ State park entrance and camping fees remain the same as last year. Daily entrance fees are \$5 per vehicle. Annual entrance permits, which are valid at all state parks, are \$25 per vehicle. North Dakota residents ages 65 and older may purchase a discounted annual pass for \$20. Former POWs and veterans with service-related disabilities are eligible for either a free annual permit or a \$5 discount, upon presenting proof of status or service disability. Annual permits can be purchased at any state park or from the ND Parks and Recreation Department office, 1600 E. Century Avenue, Bismarck.
- ✓ Camping fees are \$14 per night for a campsite with electricity, and \$8 per night for a site without an electrical hookup. Camping fees for sites with electricity at Little Missouri and Cross Ranch are slightly lower at \$8/night. Primitive camping sites at Little Missouri and Sully Creek are \$5/night. In addition to the camping fee, campers must also purchase a daily entrance permit or 2005 annual permit.
- ✓ Campsite reservations at all major state parks may be made by calling toll-free, 1-800-807-4723. Nearly half of the state parks' 1,300 campsites may be reserved. The remaining sites are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

To receive more information about park fees, cabin rentals or campsite reservations, or to get a free copy of *Discover* newspaper, which contains a listing of upcoming State Park events, call the ND Parks and Recreation Department at 701-328-5357.